

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 181221Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: FORMER CORDOBA POLICE CHIEF APPEARS IN COURT

REF: BA-1942

1. FORMER CORDOBA POLICE CHIEF, ANTONIO NAVARRO APPEARED YESTERDAY (APR 16) IN COURT TO ANSWER CHARGES OF SEDITION AND OTHER CRIMES. THE ACCUSATIONS STEM FROM NAVARRO'S REVOLTING AGAINST AND ARRESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THAT PROVINCE IN LATE FEBRUARY (SEE REFTTEL).

2. RADICAL AND OTHER OPPOSITION CONGRESSMEN HAD DEMANDED THAT NAVARRO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE THEY AGREED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF GOA PROPOSALS FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE PROVINCE. WHEN THIS DID NOT HAPPEN IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENTS IT LEAD SOME TO BELIEVE HE WOULD GET OFF THE HOOK (WHICH IS STILL A POSSIBILITY) AND GAVE ADDED CREDENCE TO THE RUMOR THAT NAVARRO HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ACTING ON PERON'S INSTRUCTIONS.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE FAIRLY INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THE JUDICIARY, NAVARRO PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HAD TO ANSWER THE CHARGES EVEN IF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD WANTED TO COVER UP. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE FACT THAT THE GOA DECREE CLOSING THE
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EXTREME LEFTIST NEWSPAPER EL MUNDO WAS NEGATED YESTERDAY BY

A FEDERAL JUDGE IN BUENOS AIRES. NONETHELESS, THE FACT THAT
NAVARRO IS BEING BROUGHT TO TRIAL HAS ENCOURAGED MODERATE
PERONISTS AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE UCR.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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